

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 01634 271306Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 IO-10

MC-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9099

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI, IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 1581

B. PHNOM PENH 1477

1. SUMMARY - THE REMAINING SHIP FROM THE SECOND 1975 MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED PHNOM PENH FROM NEAK LUONG EARLY JANUARY 27. FANK ESTIMATES THAT ALMOST THREE HUNDRED 107 MM ROCKETS HAVE FALLEN ON PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG AIRPORT SINCE JANUARY 1, KILLING ABOUT 50 PERSONS AND WOUNDING OVER 200 . THE SITUATION AT THE COASTAL PROVINCE CAPITAL OF KAMPOT IS UN-CHANGED BUT FANK IS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS. ELSEWHERE, THERE WAS LITTLE TO REPORT. END SUMMARY

2. THE SECOND OIL TANKER WHICH HAD REMAINED IN NEAK LUONG JANUARY 26 WHILE THE REST OF THE CONVOY PROCEEDED TO PHNOM PENH (REFTEL A) ARRIVED IN THE CAPITAL EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. IT TOOK SOME ATTACKS BY FIRE EN ROUTE, BUT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT HITS. KHMER NAVY
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 01634 271306Z

CASUALTIES FOR THE ENTIRE CONVOY OPERATION WERE 2

KILLED, 5 WOUNDED AND 4 MISSING. TWO NAVAL CRAFT WERE PUT OUT OF COMMISSION BY ENEMY FIRE; ONE WAS SALVAGED AND TOWED TO PHNOM PENH, WHILE THE OTHER SANK.

3. THE KC FIRED FIVE MORE 107MM ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT JANUARY 27. THREE FELL WITHIN THE PERIMETER, CAUSING NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES, WHILE THE OTHER TWO FELL OUTSIDE THE AIRFIELD, WOUNDING FIVE.

4. ACCORDING TO FANK FIGURES, WHICH WE BELIEVE GIVE AN ACCURATE OVERALL IMPRESSION ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY PRECISE, THE KC SINCE JANUARY 1 HAVE FIRED ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN 107MM ROCKETS AT PHNOM PENH AND ENVIRONS, KILLING 39 AND WOUNDING 159. THEY HAVE FIRED ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY 107MM ROCKETS AND FIFTY-TWO 105MM HOWIZER ROUNDS AT POCHENTONG AND VICINITY, KILLING TWELVE AND WOUNDING SEVENTY-FIVE. ONE DC-3 WAS DESTROYED AND ONE C-123 SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. (CONSIDERING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ROUNDS DIRECTED AT POCHENTONG, THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY MINOR. THE AIRPORT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION ALTHOUGH, AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS, SOME INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.)

5. THE SITUATION AT THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KAMPOT, LOCATED ON THE COAST IN SOUTHWESTERN CAMBODIA, REMAINS UNCHANGED AS FAR AS WE KNOW. THE KC ARE STILL THREATENING FRIENDLY POSITIONS, HAVE PENETRATED THEM TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, AND ARE INTERDICTING THE RIVER INTO THE CITY BY FIRE. FANK IS MOVING ONE COMPANY TO KAMPOT AS REINFORCEMENTS.

6. THE SITUATION ALONG ROUTE 5 ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN BATTAMBANG AND PURSAT IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA, IS ALSO UNCHANGED. THE KC HAVE MANAGED TO DESTROY SEVERAL BRIDGES, THUS SLOWING UP TRAFFIC, BUT THE ROAD REMAINS OPEN.

7. AROUND PHNOM PENH THE SITUATION WAS RELATIVELY QUIET.
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 01634 271306Z

THE FANK POSITION ALONG THE MEKONG BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND NEAK LUONG WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED UNDER HEAVY KC PRESSURE (REFTEL B) HAS BEEN REINFORCED AND IS BEING SUPPLIED. IT IS HOLDING.
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